

NEW ZEALAND LIBRARY RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE PACIFIC

The subject of this paper is before me daily at the University of Auckland—but usually in the form “South” or “South-West” Pacific. Academics tend to be interested in this more specific area: but they’re not the only Pacific-minded ones among us. A distant and languorous charm has appealed to all readers since at least the days of Stevenson and Gauguin, and today, when it is being made into a world tourist attraction, the word has a heightened if artificial glamour. Few cities within a thousand miles of it are without their Pacific Hotel or Motel; Australia has its Pacific Highway running north from Sydney, though I would claim that the shores of New South Wales are not washed by the Pacific at all; the universal Pacific floral emblem is the hibiscus, and both New Zealand and Queensland claim their Hibiscus Coast. The biggest tourist draw is probably still Hawaii, well outside the south or south-west definition; and a place of specialised but considerable anthropological interest is Easter Island, similarly beyond the closely defined pale.

For the present purpose then, my boundaries are: Hawaii on the north; New Guinea on the west; New Zealand on the south and Easter Island on the right of your map. This cuts out Australia and the Pacific Coast of the United States.

WHO IS INTERESTED?

Now who is interested in the Pacific? From the tourist point of view, as a source of livelihood, if not wealth, the governments, and the people of the countries themselves are interested; say Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tonga, New Zealand, Tahiti. And the middlemen between the tourist and the toured, the shipping and air lines, Greek, Italian, English, New Zealand, French, United States, Canadian. . . . And the tourists *themselves* in any speciously advertised land to which they have been persuaded to buy a ticket.

Largely, but not entirely, this interest bypasses the character of the people, their past history and their future destiny. The tourist gets to know them by name if not by nature; he may have no idea

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how desperately education and training are needed; of how old beliefs, exploded as guides to living, are not yet replaced by other stable codes and mores.

At another level, that of world political tensions and influence, certain governments have a sort of continual watching brief; others have direct, sometimes shared, responsibility. Can we say Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Great Britain, France, Russia? Japan? If we speculated on possible future names, it might be hard to know where to stop.

Another type—I won't say level—of interest is that of study and research. No one anywhere need be excluded from this activity, though most of it is done in such institutions as universities, museums, and research foundations.

During the last few years many individual pieces of work have been joined in a loose association for their common good at the University of Auckland, in what is called the South Pacific Programme. First printed and published in June 1963, its declared aim was "to encourage graduate studies and to meet the need for training specialists for work in the area". It went on to state: "The work done by anthropologists, geographers, economists and historians has had direct relevance to political and developmental problems confronting island administrations. Geographers have made surveys of population growth and the use of resources; anthropologists and political scientists have studied leadership problems and the dynamics of political behaviour; linguists have compiled grammars and dictionaries for indigenous languages."

"For assistance of this kind the island territories have in the past drawn on New Zealand trained experts and will continue to do so in the future. New Zealand's role in this respect was acknowledged recently by Mr Dean Rusk, U.S. Secretary of State. Speaking in Wellington on May 10 1962, he said, 'We shall find ourselves turning to you, in the face of the record which you have established in that regard . . . [to] assist the people of the Island Territories in making economic, social and political progress'." Many institutions outside New Zealand are also working on, and in, the Pacific; some in conjunction with us; the Australian National University, the South Pacific Commission, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Institut français d'Océanie, the University of Hawaii, the Bernice P. Bishop Museum (the latter two particularly in eastern Polynesia and Micronesia). Cooperation is active between our Anthropology Department and the National Science Foundation (U.S.) through the Bishop Museum; also with the International Committee for Urgent Anthropological Research in New Guinea; with the Summer Institute of Linguistics (New Guinea Branch), with the Committee on New Guinea Studies of the West Coast Universities of the U.S.A. and Canada; and of course with the Anthropology departments of Australian universities. We defined our area as that "of the South

Pacific Commission together with Tonga"; the cost of the projects listed on the first Programme was estimated at £71,000; and the areas mentioned were:

West New Guinea	Samoa (U.S. and Western)
Solomon Islands	Tokelau Islands
New Hebrides	Cook Islands
New Caledonia and Loyalty Islands	Society Islands (Tahiti)
Fiji	Tuamotu
Tonga	Marquesas
	New Zealand

while the "disciplines" involved were:

Anthropology	Fine Arts	Languages
Architecture	Geography	Obstetrics
Botany	Geology	Psychology
Education	History	

The University blessed the programme and encouraged the planners to go ahead, especially in seeking outside financial assistance, as our own help had to be limited to such things as use of equipment, leave, and support of applications to grant-making bodies.

Though research was the main theme, it was mentioned that quite a number of current degree courses deal with the Pacific. We have full courses at M.A. level for Geography, History and Anthropology, as well as part courses in the last two; and part or full undergraduate courses in Anthropology (9), Geography (5) and History.

Before the Programme was announced there had been 94 publications; and since 1963, 57 more have appeared. Similarly, nine theses were done before 1963 and 12 have been written since.

Two years later, in June 1965, South Pacific Programme II announced that, in addition to the 21 projects of Programme I, a further 15 had been undertaken, *and were completed or were proceeding with outside finance.*

From the first, the Constitution of the Programme provided for a strong Committee, including the Heads or Deputies of the Government Departments of Education and Maori Affairs (actually the Officer for Island Education and the Secretary for Maori Affairs) and four persons appointed by the University Council from outside the University or Government Departments. As you may imagine there is a small sub-committee within the University and (you will also readily believe) there is another sub-committee of Faculty of Arts members who are engaged in Pacific research.

Money was of course the biggest problem, but outside support did come; and the success of finished projects and the resulting publications probably helped get the solid Golden Kiwi grant of £17,455 in May 1965. This was for 22 specific projects:

- Economic survey of the Cook Islands
- Linguistics and social anthropology in Central New Guinea
- Urban migration in Samoa
- Traditional Maori clothing
- Comparative Polynesian linguistics
- Artefacts of the Bay of Plenty
- Excavations at South Manukau Head
- Pottery collections in Fiji
- Excavation at Mt. Wellington
- Tropical housing for South Pacific conditions
- Botany (a specialised study)
- Education (Maori) (a specialised study)
- Survey of Pacific art
- Land, resources and population absorptive capacity of Fiji
- Demographic research in Fiji
- Geological research in New Caledonia
- History of Fiji
- Melanesian languages of New Caledonia
- Polynesian languages of the Loyalties and Wallis Island
- Blood group studies in Samoa
- Royal Society Expedition to the Solomon Islands
- Collection of library materials in South Pacific studies.

For us, the last is the most important and I return to it in a moment. Meanwhile, last November, the Vice-Chancellors' Committee convened a meeting to discuss the role of New Zealand Universities in the South Pacific, and a report on this meeting is due at any moment. Other new developments peeping above the horizon are:

The University of California proposes to establish a field station in the South-west Pacific (perhaps Samoa?) and has said they would welcome Auckland's participation.

Our University itself is considering the appointment of an executive officer to coordinate research programmes, supervise publications and prepare information concerning sources of financial aid.

Wider coordination is foreshadowed by the South Pacific Commission at their 28th session in August 1965, and they may assist (but probably not finance) a meeting at the East-West Centre (Honolulu) in 1967. Preliminary talks (to include a Unesco participant) will be held at the Pacific Science Congress in Tokyo, August 1966. Fifty institutions in Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe have been consulted on this coordination, though the number of interested replies is not yet known.

COLLECTIONS

By now I hope you will agree that there is a great deal of work going on, and that little, perhaps none of it, can be done without reference to library resources of some kind, for statistics, description, comparison or evaluation, in these research studies.

Where are collections of this needed material likely to be found? And what libraries are actively assembling these collections today?

The National or Parliamentary libraries will, we assume, look after governmental interest, though this may well be local and special, even topical, rather than comprehensive. Privately originated or endowed libraries (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, the Alexander Turnbull, collections at the Auckland Institute and Museum, and the Mitchell Library in Sydney) may be expected to collect older material comprehensively and to be strong in specific fields of current interest.

The Gregg Sinclair Library at the University of Hawaii, the East-West Centre, the Australian National University, the University of Auckland, the Hocken collection in the University of Otago and the Macmillan Brown collection at Canterbury, are (may I assume again?) making themselves strong in the fields of their own teaching and research.

Amid all this apparent wealth of books, is there a problem? If there is, I suppose it's the old question of how far we in New Zealand should make ourselves (as a whole of course, not as separate institutions, Heaven forbid!) self-sufficient. We have here and now, machinery for avoiding unnecessary duplication, but it creaks.

What should we have then, in readable size copies, and what in microform (or even on tapes or as slides) to satisfy reasonable demand from our users in this country? And if we know this, what do we lack, and how can we best acquire it?

I put first the factual official and semi-official accounts in complete sets; all official reports about, or emanating from, the areas. Records, reports and publications from local authorities, museums and educational institutions; mission publications, and those from international bodies, and others commercially published by nationals, or by resident or visiting scholars. By no means all this needs to be full size; indeed considering the total number of pages, most of it could probably be on film. But I do think we need to go further than has been the original aim of the splendid Australian "Joint Copying Project", that is, beyond countries and areas that are some direct or indirect responsibility of ours, and to include all places which our research and study interests seem likely to take in. Nor should the form matter; something is better than nothing and we should get what we can in any form available. This of course, involves not only books and periodicals, but card bibliographies, the Human Relations Area Files (salute to Waikato who succeeded where the rest of us have failed, and are acquiring this amazingly useful tool in its microform. It may both assure their own rapid development and potentially benefit all other New Zealand institutions at the same time). Other forms are tape recordings (language and folklore material), motion pictures, photographs and transparencies.

Most of these things are outside the normal scope of the book trade altogether and special means have to be used to get them.

A possible source is in the U.S. National Archives. A little publication issued in 1942 and "declassified" three years later describes and

lists "Material in the National Archives relating to the Southern and Western Pacific Areas". It includes "Post Records" and "Consular Despatches" from U.S. Consular or Diplomatic Posts. To whet your appetite, I quote:

Auckland, N.Z.	Post records 1859-1916 Consular despatches 1839-1906
Wellington, N.Z.	Post records 1883-1909
Hawaii	Post records 1839-1900
Manila	Consular despatches 1817-1899
Norfolk Island	Post records 1887-1908
Noumea	Post records 1887-1899
Apia	Consular despatches 1843-1906
Tahiti	Post records 1836-1928 Consular despatches 1836-1906
Lauthala (Fiji)	Consular despatches 1844-1890

At the moment, the most I can say is that films of some of these are held in some American libraries, and that our own National Archives are acquiring ones of direct New Zealand interest. Do we have any others in the country? The items above do not necessarily indicate incomplete files; they are merely those that have been handed over from the Federal agency concerned to the U.S. National Archives. The others may be held by the originating office. A description of these records reads: "The diplomatic records, of course, deal with subjects involved in international relations, but they contain some information on the interests of private individuals, and commercial and general economic relations. The consular records of the earlier years deal principally with the routine functions of the officers for which fees were collected. For the later years, and to some extent for the earlier period, these records contain also data regarding economic conditions in surrounding areas and international trade and communications. The post records contain the original instructions issued to the officers, copies of the despatches sent, record books of various sorts, and general correspondence and papers."

Among the vast number of topics, scientific, historical, social, commercial, administrative, of Federal agencies whose records have been transferred to the National Archives, are maps, photographs of commercial enterprises and industrial plants; log books of vessels; and journals of officers of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842.

The above is some of America's possible contribution; in Great Britain the Public Record Office, aware of the need and demand for similar material, is engaged in photographing huge quantities, and if they meet certain datelines, orders for these can still be placed at a price well below that of single later orders. Among the documents are:

Registers of correspondence
Government gazettes
Sessional papers

and these from areas that may concern us, relate to:

Australia and New Zealand
Borneo
Brunei
Nauru

New Guinea
Papua
Solomon Is.
Tonga
Western Pacific

(these are the P.R.O.'s designations)

If these are just the official statement, the Public Record Office has also entered the new field of the more or less unofficial record in its Confidential Print. This a series of the news behind the news and in their "List of Colonial Office Confidential Print to 1916" are almost countless items, never formally published and including a great many documents relative to Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, the South Pacific and Western Pacific. This material was in fact printed, in small runs, for internal use within the Colonial Office and sometimes for circulation to Cabinet. Similarly, the "List of Cabinet Papers, 1880-1914" contains the same kind of document issued usually in not more than about 30 copies. Sometimes manuscript notes were among these, others were printed but never circulated, and many have MS comments where the handwriting can reveal the author's identity. Subject to the 50-year rule, these collections are available in the Search Rooms of the Public Record Office. Among ministers who initialled or signed documents and who were either Prime Minister, or held portfolios of Foreign Office, Trade or Colonies, are Arthur Balfour, Joseph Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, W. E. Gladstone, David Lloyd-George, the Earl of Rosebery and Edward Stanhope.

Many of these are, as Mr Stephen Wilson, Keeper of the Records, has said of them, as near to the *ipsissima verba* of governmental initiating ideas, communications and generally seminal thoughts and acts, as one could get.

I have seen some of them and it seems to me quite possible that within and between various offices of fifty years and more ago there is much fascinating goading, backchat and subtle suggestion and planning. Timing, as Shakespeare, and Eliot, know, is critically important.

"between the acting of a dreadful thing
and the first motion, all the interim is
like a phantasma or a hideous dream"

Julius Caesar II, 1, line 63

Well, maybe the notes of Lloyd George, Asquith, Curzon or Gladstone weren't quite as spine-chilling, but you will see the possibilities are there.

"Between the idea
and the reality
between the motion
and the act
falls the Shadow"

The Hollow Men

A favourite way of disarming nuisances has always been and still is, elevating them in social status. "Dear Prime Minister, how about Ramsay Macdonald for the next Governor of Fiji?" I wonder how many similar notes there are about actual Pacific diplomats? And how many bright possibilities that on second thoughts were dropped?

There are some fifteen volumes of fairly direct interest in the Confidential Print series from which we could profitably make a selection, to be followed by negotiations over film copies.

If you agree this is interesting and potentially useful material, can you tell me where it should be? If there were a reliable, comprehensive and complete collection in Canberra, would that do? If you feel a good deal of it should—must?—be here, can we decide what that deal is, and go from there to decide where it shall be located in New Zealand? At the moment few libraries here seem to have a wide coverage, and perhaps none have complete sets. We're not alone in this situation. At Hawaii the University Library deliberately specialises in certain areas; believe it or not, no library there accepts a responsibility for covering at all fully, Australia or New Zealand. This should trim us down to size, and at the same time sharpen us up to finding out what overseas Pacific libraries possess and not imagine we can rely on their collections to bolster the continued weakness of our own. How strong is Australia? Should we not find this out?

MANUSCRIPTS

I have not mentioned manuscripts. In its original form this kind of primary material either is here or it isn't. But there are two things to do: find out what exists in private collections; and perhaps arrange for copying some important items. At present one of the most useful and efficient jobs ever is being done by Miss P. Mander Jones in London on the "Guide to MSS relating to Australia and the South-west Pacific". Eventually this project will emerge from its chrysalis as a guide to the MSS in Great Britain and Ireland on the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand. In the light of what I've already told you, I now say that New Zealand should give official help with this work. It badly needs better finance simply to bring nearer the day of completion. If we put a thousand pounds into it, that would be a minor contribution considering the enormous help to research the final "Guide" will be, and the travel costs and time it may save many, many academic and other serious students.

Other kinds of manuscripts are those existing (perhaps moribund and forgotten) in the Pacific area itself. There must be some, maybe many; and the somewhat similar original and unique records—business archives. Interest in business history is now world-wide; invaluable documents could be there waiting to be picked up and preserved somewhere—not necessarily far from the place in which they were created.

We are already involved of course, in Australia's "Joint Copying Project" for which the Public Record is making available great series of documents. Perhaps in the light of these fairly new and definite demands we should extend our participation?

DO WE OWE SOMETHING TO THE PACIFIC?

In all the foregoing I've concentrated on getting material from or about the Pacific (admittedly with the intention of returning it in the form of educated and trained advisers) and I've omitted (consciously, for I know almost nothing about it) the question of library service to Pacific peoples.

The excellent articles (*N.Z. Libs.*, August 1965) by Bernice Hynes and Bruce Turner compel admiration of both themselves and the groups behind them for what has been done for the Cook Islands (centred on Rarotonga) and Western Samoa (from Apia). National Library Service with their usual high sense of responsibility have helped greatly in each place. Those of us who are in any way involved in vocational or professional training have been concerned that some kind of interloan or extramural lending service is needed; and we are glad that within its own area of responsibility, Massey University of Manawatu is offering just this.

Education and training are, however, steadily developing, and my suggestions, which follow, are designed for future extension from the present creditable beginnings.

Let us look to Niue, Nauru and the Tokelaus; and let's not narrow this too much; in most of the Pacific more library skill is needed, and we could help supply it in several ways. Why don't we begin now by offering part-time work in libraries to Island students? And do better for extramural students by offering them a postal service for accepted internal students in subjects not offered by Massey; foster and encourage agreements with Pacific island libraries—the University of Auckland has begun one with the Nelson Memorial Library in Samoa; look forward to somewhat harder deals over staff (short-term staff exchanges with Honolulu, Apia, Suva?); and help train librarians for Pacific service by more actively attracting Islanders to Library School and especially the N.Z.L.A. Certificate course; this should include, by the way, any needed assistance with accommodation.

RECOMMENDATION

I know there is something to be done about New Zealand libraries and the Pacific. I see it more as a problem of resources than of service; and I believe we know enough of our concern with the area, subjects of interest and research, and the type of people wanting

the material, to discuss needs, assess present strength, find out Australia's strength and policy for development, and to work out a plan for collecting in New Zealand.

The University of Auckland proposes to send a library staff member into the Pacific this year in an exploratory way to seek original documentary and other out of print material, investigate publishing there, make exchange arrangements and visit missions and other possible repositories and sources. Just now this relates to what *we* know *we* want, but it may reveal information of use to many other institutions and interested parties. In a way it's flying a kite.

Meanwhile, the larger question remains—how can we work out among us *all*, a commonly shared approach and solution?

I suggest the N.Z.L.A. Library Resources Committee consider the problem and put forward ideas on how to tackle it.

The University of Auckland has since announced that the Deputy Librarian, Mr H. O. Roth, is to visit New Caledonian, the New Hebrides, Fiji, Tonga, Western and American Samoa in August 1966. on a buying mission.